

SYN. NO. _____

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

July 19, 2005

SB 658 (Kuehl), as amended, would establish the Coastal Environment Motor Vehicle Mitigation Program. This bill would authorize the State Coastal Conservancy to collect a fee of up to \$6 upon the registration or renewal of registration of every motor vehicle registered in one of the twenty coastal counties that elects to participate in the program. The Board of Supervisors of each coastal county would determine, by majority vote, whether to participate. Funds raised by this fee would be spent on projects and grants that prevent, reduce, remediate, or mitigate the adverse environmental effects of motor vehicles and their associated facilities and infrastructure. Thirty per cent of the funds raised would be distributed to the counties for countywide expenditure on these purposes. The remaining 70% would be expended for these purposes by the Coastal Conservancy, which would have to support projects and grants that benefit participating counties in a manner proportional to the amount received from those counties, over any two consecutive two-year periods. The program would be subject to biennial audit.

If approved and signed into law, SB 658 could raise as much as \$112 million a year, including up to \$40 million to be spent on projects benefiting Los Angeles County. The Department of Public Works has proposed a “favor and amend” position on this bill

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since it would generate much-needed revenue that could support the County's implementation of its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit. Under this permit the County has been charged with an enormous responsibility to control stormwater discharge into the ocean, particularly pollutants of concern that Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements regulate, but no additional source of funding to support these new State mandates. SB 658 could provide crucial funding that would help the County to meet its obligations under State and Federal law.

The twenty coastal counties include 77% of California's population and 70% of the state's registered motor vehicles. Motor vehicle travel over the past twenty years has increased at four times the rate of population growth. Motor vehicles and their related infrastructure including roads, parking lots, bridges, dams, levees, culverts and tunnels have a staggering impact on our coast, including water pollution, flooding and erosion, proliferation of invasive species, and interference with fish and wildlife migration. SB 658 would establish a coordinated, voluntary state-local partnership to help address these issues.

The Public Works Department has recommended that the County support this bill and propose amendments that would clarify the proposed allocation of funds as well as the audit responsibility.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board take a position in support of SB 658 (Kuehl) and seek amendments to clarify the proposed allocation of funds and the audit responsibility.